

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009***

***Present:*** Selectmen Wes Moore and Rosanne Gilbert (Michael Woodworth was out of town). Others present included: Clay Mitchell, Mary August, Natalie Fream, Marcia Kovalik, Sue McKinnon, and Nancy Spencer.

***Call to order:*** 6:32pm by Wes Moore.

Rosanne Gilbert advised that she spoke with Cathy Nelson Smith of the Community Church regarding the tree limb which fell onto church property. Cathy gave permission for Brian Knipstein to remove the tree limb. The tree itself is on town property.

Clay presented a letter to the Selectmen to clear up the number of members on the Planning Board. A copy of that letter is attached at the end of these minutes. After a brief discussion the Selectmen signed the reappointments for Michael Todd and Michael Price.

The Vienneau subdivision is all ready with the exception of the attorneys. Fran Lane is working on behalf of the Town. There will be a total of nine building lots in addition to the existing home. Wes asked if there is anyway to save the land from subdivision and putting it into conservation. He will discuss the pros and cons of this with the Vienneaus.

Planning Board members met with the Main Street Art group at the old post office building for a site walk last night. It was determined that the driveway is too steep for parking in the back. They talked about restricting the number of people in the classes, being open when the library is closed, and the fact that parking is an issue. There is a handicapped parking spot out front, but it takes the space of two regular spaces. The municipal parking lot can be used (it is a 50 second walk to the old post office), but only when it is not already in use by renters of the Town Hall or on election days. Their formal application will be discussed in May. The Planning Board requirements will be included in the final lease. The Town enforces the lease.

Rosanne asked that Fran Lane stop work on the lease agreement until such time as the Planning Board has approved the application. A lot of expenses have been incurred to date and this will save money.

The Citizen's Petition filed by Nancy Kingston was discussed. The Warrant Article rezoned the property by Special Exception by a large majority at the Town Meeting. The ZBA cannot go against the Town Meeting.

Mary August advised that Nancy Kingston called her to discuss the Warrant Article. Mary has since recused herself due to prior prejudice. Clay discussed the fact that the town gave Nancy a Special Exception to have her real estate office above the country store.

Natalie Fream updated the Selectmen on the site walk with the Planning Board at the old post office location. The Board explained their position on stopping the lease process with the Town Attorney until the Planning Board is close to approving their application.

Marcia Kovalik asked the Board to use her expertise in drafting the lease as she is donating her time. Right now the insurance company is reviewing the proposed lease. Wes feels that everything will come together quickly once the Planning Board approval is given. Rosanne thanked Marcia for donating her time.

Wes and Clay discussed changing the Village District into a real village with buried utilities, street parking, professional offices, etc. Clay will research funding for this purpose.

Checks were signed.

Seven Abatements were approved and signed.

The Primex Health Renewal Rate agreement was signed.

The landscaping bids were reviewed and the winning bidder was James King Development of Newmarket. Letters will be sent to the other bidders advising that they were not chosen.

The Selectmen agreed to waive the interest charges on Barbara Finn's taxes due to the circumstances involved.

The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting will be posted as a draft. There was not a quorum and they could not be approved.

The Arsenic Violation, NHDES, and Municipal Pest Management correspondence was tabled until next week.

Rosanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer  
Administrative Assistant

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April 21, 2009

Newfields Board of Selectmen  
Town of Newfields

Re: Board Membership

Dear Honorable Board,

In consideration of our meeting tonight that has been understandably rescheduled, we offer this letter to provide you with our opinion on this matter in the hopes that we can begin to move forward. We apologize for the failure to submit a warrant ballot item for the 2009 Town Meeting, this was our responsibility.

Going forward, we have drafted a notice for a public hearing in May to prepare the article for the 2010 Town Meeting. This ballot item will hopefully address the concerns about the status of the Board without creating undue concern over our past operations. The following draft of the ballot item is submitted to you to show our commitment and proposed solution:

- Shall the Town Meeting vote to clarify and confirm that the membership of the Planning Board is 9 members, consisting of 7 regular members and 2 alternate members. This vote clarifies the original 1957 Town Meeting vote, which set the membership of the Planning Board at 9 members with no further clarification on status of these members. Furthermore, this vote supersedes any other action of the Town Meeting relating to Board membership. The current laws of the State of New Hampshire authorizing this action are NH RSA 673:2 as to regular membership and NH RSA 673:6 as to alternates.

Since it appears that the best available information remains that the Board consists of 7 regular members, we would also respectfully request that you consider the reappointment of Mike Price and Mike Todd to the Board. They have served well, the Town of Newfields.

We look forward to working with the Board of Selectmen on future matters and hope that you find this letter to be a sign of our commitment to that position.

Very truly yours,

  
John Hayden, Chair  
Newfields Planning Board

  
Clay Mitchell,  
Town Planner